<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please amend Claims 24 and 27 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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24.   (Seven Times Amended) An image processing device comprising:

a scanner for reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal;

a control unit including a control circuit adapted for controlling said device and performing image processing necessary for copying on the image signal output from said scanner to provide a first processed image signal;

a first bidirectional general-purpose interface for transmitting the image signal output by said scanner under control of said control unit to an external computer, which performs image processing necessary for copying on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and for receiving the second processed image signal from the external computer; and

a second bidirectional general-purpose interface of a same standard as said first bidirectional general-purpose interface adapted for outputting the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer,

wherein said device has a plurality of modes including a read mode, a print mode, a first copying mode performed in response to an execution designation by a user, and a second copying mode in which the image signal output from said scanner is outputted to

- 2 -

said printer without being processed the external computer,

in the first copying mode, the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of: said control unit, said first bidirectional general-purpose interface, the external computer, said first bidirectional interface, said control unit, and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, and

in the second copying mode, the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of: said control unit and said second bidirectional general-purpose interface so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal.

27. (Seven Times Amended) An image processing method for an image processing device capable of operating in a plurality of modes including a read mode, a print mode, a first copying mode, and a second copying mode, said method comprising the steps of:

reading an image of a document and outputting an image signal by a scanner;

performing image processing necessary for copying on the output image signal by using a control unit for controlling the image processing device to provide a first processed image signal;

transmitting the image signal output by the scanner under control of the control unit to an external computer via a first bidirectional general-purpose interface to be processed, by image processing necessary for copying, into a second processed image signal in

- 3 -